



**Name of Project:** OPTIONS – The Indiana Elder Affairs Network

**Name of Organization:** Indiana Family & Social Services Administration – Division of Aging, Indianapolis, IN

**Principle of Choices for Independence:** Empowerment/Access to Information and Services; Consumer Direction

### **Description**

In the past, Hoosiers may have experienced limited access and limited capacity of alternative home and community based services available and therefore may have been required to be admitted to a nursing facility. Times have changed. In July 2006, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Aging was created as a separate division and simultaneously the complete budgetary responsibility for Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facility level of care home and community-based services waivers transitioned to the Division of Aging from the Indiana Office of Medicaid Policy & Planning. The Division of Aging subsequently developed the Long Term Care OPTIONS Program, which has been instrumental in increasing the knowledge and supply of critical, core long-term care services emphasizing home care services (including attendant care and homemaker services), home health services, adult foster care, adult day services, assisted living, self-directed attendant care, and nursing facility services.

By working directly with the long-term care industry, the Division of Aging has and will continue to improve access to the array of Indiana Options for Long Term Care (OPTIONS) in-home services. As examples of Indiana's success, we now have

- 100% increase in Certified Assisted Living Facilities
- First-ever Adult Foster Care Program with 27 certified homes
- First-ever Self-Directed Attendant Care clients on the Medicaid Waiver

We have dedicated program staff to oversee and market the Adult Foster Care, Adult Day Services and Assistant Living programs to ensure a spectrum of services are available to older individuals who have the greatest economic need, with particular attention to low-income minority residents and those who may be residing in rural areas or who are otherwise isolated. To assist in locating services in any of Indiana's 92 counties, the OPTIONS website has an easy-to-access feature that allows the user to select a "find services/providers" feature, and then simply click on the county and the array of available long-term care and support services in that county appears, along with contact information for the service.

The OPTIONS program places long-term care decisions where they belong – in the hands of our older Hoosiers and persons with disabilities and their trusted family members. OPTIONS was developed to promote and support the full-range of long-term care options for older Hoosiers and persons with disabilities, and their caregivers.

**Website:** [www.LTCOPTIONS.in.gov](http://www.LTCOPTIONS.in.gov)

For more information on the OPTIONS program, please contact Karen Filler, Assistant Director, FSSA Division of Aging at [Karen.filler@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Karen.filler@fssa.in.gov) or at 317-232-4651.